



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **TWO KC MEN SENTENCED FOR ROLE IN CONSPIRACY TO DISTRIBUTE TWO KILOS OF COCAINE, 400 POUNDS OF MARIJUANA**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that the first two of eight convicted co-defendants were sentenced in federal court today for his participation in a conspiracy to distribute two kilograms of cocaine and 400 pounds of marijuana in the Kansas City area.

**Joseph Gonzales**, 25, and **Carl A. Chatman**, 29, both of Kansas City, were sentenced by U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning. **Gonzales** was sentenced to 15 years in federal prison without parole and **Chatman** was sentenced to 12 years and three months in federal prison without parole.

On Oct. 1, 2004, **Gonzales** and **Chatman** were among eight co-defendants convicted by a federal jury for conspiracy to distribute cocaine and marijuana in the metropolitan area. The case resulted from a reverse sting operation, Graves said, in which an undercover law enforcement officer delivered two kilograms of cocaine and 400 pounds of marijuana to the defendants after they arranged for the purchase through a confidential informant.

Co-defendants **Augustine. C. Aviles**, 40, **Michael A. Aviles**, 45, **Henry M. Ruiz**, 38, **Daniel F. Ramirez**, 29, **Kevin C. Darks**, 49, and **Robert Lopez**, 28, all of Kansas City, were also convicted by the federal jury for conspiracy to distribute cocaine and marijuana in the metropolitan area. The conspiracy took place between Oct. 8 and Nov. 13, 2003.

The co-defendants waited at a warehouse until a truck, driven by an undercover law enforcement officer, arrived to deliver the cocaine and marijuana. After the defendants unloaded the truck, they were arrested, Graves said. During the encounter, **Augustine Aviles** threatened to kill a law enforcement officer and **Chatman** was shot, Graves said.

Each of the co-defendants also was found guilty of possession with intent to distribute

marijuana and illegally possessing one or more firearms during and in relation to a drug trafficking crime. **Augustine Aviles, Michael Aviles, Chatman, Ruiz, Darks and Gonzales** were also found guilty of possession with intent to distribute cocaine.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney David M. Ketchmark and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Matthew Wolesky. It was investigated by the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
[www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow](http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow)